

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of claims**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for the preparation of a modified carrier for a catalyst to be used for the vapor phase epoxidation of alkene, comprising consisting essentially of:

- a) impregnating a preformed alpha-alumina carrier, which has been subjected to calcining and, optionally, other preforming treatments, as part of the preforming process, with a modifier consisting essentially of an aqueous solution of at least one alkali metal hydroxide modifier;
- b) optionally drying said impregnated carrier;
- c) calcining said impregnated and optionally dried carrier; and
- d) washing said calcined carrier.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for the preparation of a catalyst to be used for the vapor phase epoxidation of alkene, comprising:

- a) impregnating a preformed alpha-alumina carrier, which has been subjected to calcining and, optionally, other preforming treatments, as part of the preforming process, with a modifier consisting essentially of an aqueous solution of at least one alkali metal hydroxide modifier;
- b) optionally drying said impregnated carrier;
- c) calcining said impregnated and optionally dried carrier;
- d) washing said calcined carrier; and
- e) depositing silver catalytic material on said impregnated, optionally dried, calcined, and washed carrier only after calcining said carrier.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 or 2 wherein said calcining is carried out at a temperature of 800°C. to 1800°C.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 or 2 wherein said alpha-alumina carrier has a morphology comprising interlocking platelets.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 or 2 wherein said preformed alpha-alumina carrier is prepared by contacting boehmite alumina and/or gamma-alumina with an acidic mixture containing halide anions and water.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 or 2 wherein at least one efficiency enhancing promoter is deposited on said impregnated preformed alpha-alumina carrier.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said promoter comprises a rhenium-containing compound.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said alkene is ethylene.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 or 2 wherein said alkali metal hydroxide is present in an amount from 0.01 to 5.0 weight percent, based on the total weight of the modified alumina carrier.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 or 2 wherein said alkali metal hydroxide is sodium hydroxide.

11-52 (Cancelled)